

National Mining Association

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**NMA Salutes Reps. Geoff Davis and Nick Rahall for Legislation
Promoting Coal Liquefaction, Energy Independence**

The following statement is by National Mining Association (NMA) President and CEO Craig R. Naasz regarding today's introduction in the House of the "Coal-to-Liquid Fuel Promotion Act of 2007." Sponsored by Representatives Geoff Davis (R-Ky.) and Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), the bill is companion legislation to S. 154 introduced last week by Senators Jim Bunning (R-Ky.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.). The bill authorizes the U.S. Department of Energy to administer loan guarantees and provide other incentives for initial construction of coal-to-liquid (CTL) plants, expands tax credits for CTL plant construction and authorizes Department of Defense funding for CTL research and development:

"Americans stand to benefit enormously from the leadership shown by Representatives Geoff Davis and Nick Rahall in sponsoring legislation that will reduce our country's growing reliance on foreign energy. The bill recognizes the enormous potential of America's coal reserves — the world's largest — for generating more of the transportation fuel we need. The congressmen also clearly recognize the formidable financial risks involved in developing an entirely new domestic fuel vulnerable to the influences of a global energy market.

"The technology for converting U.S. coal to transportation fuel already exists. The cost of building this industry is considerable, but so too is the cost of continuing to rely on volatile and unfriendly regimes for the energy our economic prosperity depends on. Swift approval of this legislation, and its companion bill in the Senate, will help our country take an important step towards greater independence from foreign energy suppliers."